

Paula K. Peterson
P.O. Box KXA - Kasaan
Ketchikan, Alaska 99950-0340
(907) 542-2208 paulakayne@hotmail.com

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Local Boundary Commission
550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1770
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3510

RE: Boroughization of Prince of Wales Island

Dear Local Boundary Commission,

I am writing you in regards to your recommendation to make Prince of Wales Island a Borough.

I am an Alaskan Native; I've lived in Kasaan, located on Prince of Wales Island, since 1978. I've been involved actively as a Council member on both local governments, the City of Kasaan and Organized Village of Kasaan and am currently a council member of the Organized Village of Kasaan. I've also been an S.E.A.R.H.C. Board member for many years.

I've seen most of the changes here on the island. The economy was great several years ago with the fishing and timber industries, but in the last few years, both of those industries have become a thing of the past. We lost 95% of the logging industry and now we are losing the last of the little bit of fishing industry we had. In all actuality, we are in an Economic Disaster.

I feel that it is ludicrous to even think about making this island a Borough. We don't have the people or economy to support any type of Borough at this time. The data you have to support Prince of Wales Island having a Borough is so out dated that it's not even funny. There is only one small hatchery on Prince of Wales Island which employs only a handful of people, located in Klawock. Canneries are closing down on Prince of Wales Island (read Ketchikan Newspaper: Ward Cove Cannery is shutting down all operations). The logging is approximately 95% gone, the Thorne Bay Sorting Yard is CLOSED and for my community, the last fishing permit holder sold his permit a few years ago and the only Sawmill we had, is CLOSED.

Historically, the fishing and timber industries on Prince of Wales Island had sustained Prince of Wales Island's economy. In fact, many of the communities were primarily built on either and/or both fishing and timber industries. Even the four (4) native communities have depended heavily on them to maintain their economy.

I understand that the State of Alaska also is being affected by the whole state's economy, and I understand that by having four separate school districts on Prince of Wales Island is not financially good for the State. It's easy to make decisions when you just see a place on a map or read about places in books. To better understand, it is good to go out and see things for yourself. Many politicians make their decisions by what they have read or seen on a map. Do they not know how spreads out the communities on Prince of Wales are? That many of the communities are accessed by either upgraded logging roads or floatplane and boats. There are only a few communities, such as Craig and Klawock, that are closely connected.

Nevertheless, if it comes down to it, I would rather see the four school districts united under one school district than seeing this island becoming a Borough. Most residents on this island on mean-low income. The average income is \$28,000.00. That barely supports anyone now, how will they be able to support any type of taxation that will be needed to support a Borough. It ain't goanna happen!

Thank you for taking time to read my comments.

Sincerely,

